GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3333
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
TOUR BY TRAI OFFICIALS
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign and domestic tours undertaken by the Chairman and other officials of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) during the last three years and till date and the money involved therein;

(b) whether the money spent on the said tours is in excess of their sanctioned limits; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): The details, as informed by TRAI, on the number of foreign and domestic toursundertaken by Chairman and other officials, during the last three years and till date, and the money involved therein, are given in the Annexure.
Prior to issue of Government notificationregulating the terms and conditions of service of Chairperson, TRAI and other Members w.e.f. 15.3.99, TRAI had issued internal ordersregulating personal entitlements including travel etc., of the Chairperson and Members which had been commented upon adversely by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.Subsequentlyon the orders of the appropriate authority, the Department of Telecommunications had issued orders inter-alia regularizing the travel expenditure incurred by the Chairperson and Membersfrom the date of assumption of their office till 14.3.99. For the period from 15.3.99 onwards, the terms and conditions of service including travel entitlements were governed by the notification issued by Government under Section 35 (2) (a) of the TRAI Act alongwith certain relaxation and additional facilities given subsequently.
After amendments to the TRAI Act 1997in January 2000, terms and conditions of service, including travel entitlements, of Chairperson and whole-time members and part-time members of TRAI are governed by the notifications issued by the Government under Section 35 (2) (a) and Section 35 (2) (aa) respectively.